



# IOWA RECOVERY TIMES

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Iowa Homeland Security  
and Emergency  
Management Division

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Smarter**

[www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov)

## GOVERNOR CULVER DECLares MARCH “FLOOD AWARENESS MONTH”

In an event held March 4 at the Old Capitol in Iowa City, Governor Culver proclaimed March “Flood Awareness Month.” After the proclamation, the Governor met with officials from Iowa City, Coralville, Johnson County and the University of Iowa to discuss flood recovery issues and then held a town hall meeting with disaster-impacted Iowans.

The Governor’s proclamation began a month-long flood awareness campaign involving the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO), the Iowa



*Governor Culver declares March “Flood Awareness Month” at an event in Iowa City on March 4.*

Insurance Division (IID), the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD). Throughout

March, personnel from these state agencies will share flood-related information and safety tips with the media and the public.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## SEVERAL COUNTIES NOW RECEIVING APPLICATIONS FOR THE UNMET NEEDS DISASTER GRANT

Iowans in several disaster-affected counties can now apply for unmet needs grants created by the \$56 million Disaster Recovery Bill passed by the Iowa legislature in February. These grants provide up to \$2,500 per household to help pay for losses or expenses from last year’s disasters which have not yet been covered by other

forms of assistance.

The Disaster Recovery Bill included \$10 million for individual disaster grants for unmet needs. The funds are allocated through the Department of Human Services (DHS), and will provide up to \$2,500 for unreimbursed expenses for personal property, home repair, food assistance, mental health assistance,

child care, transportation and temporary housing incurred as a result of last year’s disasters.

The grants are designed to help cover unmet needs in the 78 counties declared presidential disaster areas for Individual Assistance between May 24 and Aug. 14, 2008.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## DISASTER RECOVERY CASE MANAGEMENT SUMMIT—CONNECTING LONG-TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEES

On March 12, more than 70 Long-Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) case managers from across the state met in Cedar Rapids to participate in the Disaster Recovery Case Management Summit. This day-long event brought together local committees to share their experiences and best practices and to learn how to better assist Iowans recovering from last summer's devastating tornadoes and flooding.

RIO Executive Director Major General Ron Dardis addressed summit participants prior to the first of three workshop breakout sessions. He commended the work of the case managers as invaluable to Iowa's recovery from last summer's disasters, but stressed that the need for quality case management assistance persists.

The summit offered interactive workshops for LTRC case managers to discuss topics relating to disaster



*Disaster Recovery Case Managers from across the state meet for a day-long summit in Cedar Rapids March 12 to better serve Iowans recovering from last summer's disasters*

recovery including standardizing case management practices, sustaining efforts while planning for the future and balancing the demands of case management with personal and

professional commitments. The summit also featured a tutorial and forum on the Coordinated Assistance Network (CAN), an important tool for successful case management.

## DISASTER-RELATED TAX CONSIDERATIONS

Changes in the federal income tax law may benefit disaster-affected Iowans.

Taxpayers in counties with presidential disaster declarations for Individual Assistance are eligible for all special tax provisions in federal tax publication 4492-B. These include:

Adair, Adams, Allamakee, Appanoose, Audubon, Benton, Black Hawk, Boone, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Cass, Cedar, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Clarke, Clayton, Clinton, Crawford, Dallas, Davis, Decatur, Delaware, Des Moines, Dubuque, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Fremont, Greene, Grundy, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Harrison, Henry, Howard, Humboldt, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Jones,

Keokuk, Kossuth, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Mills, Mitchell, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Muscatine, Page, Polk, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Scott, Story, Tama, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, Webster, Winnebago, Winneshiek, Worth and Wright.

Taxpayers in counties that have only received a presidential disaster declaration for Public Assistance (Carroll, Cherokee, Lyon, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Taylor and Wayne counties) are eligible for all special tax provisions in federal tax publication 4492-B EXCEPT:

- Charitable Giving Incentives
- Net Operating Losses
- Education Credits
- Recapture of Federal Mortgage Subsidy
- Tax Relief for Temporary Relocation
- Employee Retention Credit
- Employer Housing Credit and Exclusion
- Demolition and Clean-up Costs
- Increase in Rehabilitation Credit

To view all the changes in the federal income tax law regarding disaster victims, view the Iowa Department of Revenue's disaster relief page at [www.state.ia.us/tax/news/DisasterRelief.html](http://www.state.ia.us/tax/news/DisasterRelief.html).

## IOWA FURNITURE COMPANIES ASSIST DISASTER-AFFECTED BUSINESSES

Officials of Allsteel and HON, two Muscatine-based office furniture companies owned by HNI Corporation, will continue to offer deep discounts to flood-affected businesses through 2009, or as long as there is a need.

The companies sought and received permission from the U.S. General Services Agency (GSA) office to sell furniture to flood-affected businesses at a discount usually reserved for federal agencies.

GSA leverages the buying power of the federal government to acquire the best value for taxpayers and federal customers. The discounts run from 62-67 percent of list book prices, company officials said.

Allsteel had its dealers knocking on the doors of flood-affected businesses by late summer to see what they could do for them, and HON followed in early fall. Officials with Allsteel began discussing the

possibility of using the federal discounts shortly after the tornadoes and flooding in the summer of 2008, said Janice Novick, market manager for Allsteel. HON started offering the discounts in the fall.

"We had quite a few businesses take us up on the program in the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City areas, Cedar Falls and southern Iowa," Novick said. "We also helped some businesses in Parkersburg that had tornado damage."

Dave Brunck, HON territory manager based out of Johnston, said "A lot of people told me they really appreciated the fact an Iowa company was willing to go to bat for them— Iowans looking out for Iowans."

HON and Allsteel employ thousands of workers in eastern Iowa, some of whom were directly affected by the flooding, Novick said.

### UNMET NEEDS GRANT (from page 1)

The first applications for the unmet needs grants were accepted by Long-Term Recovery Committees in Benton, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Cerro Gordo, Dubuque, Franklin, Fremont, Johnson, Linn, Louisa, Muscatine, Montgomery, Page, Polk and Scott counties which in total serve more than sixty percent of disaster-impacted Iowans in the state. Since then, additional counties have been added to this list, while other counties are still finalizing their preparations to begin accepting applications.

Unmet needs disaster grants are available to families with household incomes up to three times the federal poverty level. For example, the income eligibility limit for a family of two is about \$42,000. Unmet needs grants will help low- to moderate-income households obtain items or pay the cost of a service not already paid with assistance from insurance, charity or

government programs.

Applicants should apply to the Long-Term Recovery Committee that covers the county where they lived when the disaster occurred. Applicants have until June 30, 2010, to apply for any existing funds.

Applicants may call the Rebuild Iowa Office at 1-866-849-0323 or go to the RIO Web site at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov) and click on "Disaster Recovery Case Management" icon to find their appropriate committee.

Each Long-Term Recovery Committee will review and certify each application, then send the information to the DHS, the agency overseeing the new grant program. If an item or a service has already been paid for by an applicant using his or her own money, the claim will be reimbursed by check. In the case of a need that must still be purchased, the claim will be paid directly to a specific vendor.

*"A lot of people ... really appreciated the fact an Iowa company was willing to go to bat for them— Iowans looking out for Iowans."*

*- Dave Brunck,  
HON*

## The Rebuild Iowa Office



[www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov)

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Des Moines, IA 50319**

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## FLOOD AWARENESS (continued from page 1)

Flood awareness is particularly important in the aftermath of one of the worst natural disasters in Iowa. The floods and storms of 2008 are anticipated to be the fifth largest disaster on record in U.S. history, according to Public Assistance figures from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Officials also want to make sure Iowans are aware of the availability of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This is particularly important to consider in March with spring and the likelihood of additional flooding close at hand. Unlike homeowner's insurance, a person must wait 30 days after purchasing flood insurance before that policy becomes active.

People may purchase flood insurance for a home or business, regardless of whether the property is in a flood plain as long as the community is participating in the NFIP. Iowans can find out whether a particular community is enrolled in the program by visiting the RIO Web site at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov).

Another helpful Web site for Iowans interested in flood insurance to consider is [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov). Homeowners, renters and small business owners can estimate their premiums and calculate their flood insurance rate. There are currently more than 13,700 flood insurance policies in Iowa, with the average policy costing about \$722 per year.

Lastly, HSEMD offers

these tips to prepare for the possibility of a flood event occurring:

- Take a pre-disaster inventory of personal property.
  - Be aware of streams, drainage channels and other areas known to flood suddenly in their area.
  - Always have a plan on how to quickly and safely evacuate a home or business.
  - Do not drive into flooded areas. It only takes two inches of water to move a vehicle.
  - If you are asked to evacuate, remain calm.

Iowans can learn more about flood safety tips and how to prepare for a disaster at [www.bereadiyiowa.org](http://www.bereadiyiowa.org).

**Clip & Save...**

## Federal Agencies

General FEMA Information	800.621.FEMA (3362)
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.462.7585
FEMA Fraud Detection	800.323.8603
National Flood Insurance Program	800.427.4661
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.427.5593
Social Security Administration	800.772.1213
U.S. Small Business Administration	800.659.2955
Internal Revenue Service	800.829.1040
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.829.4059
Tax-Related Disaster Relief	866.562.5227
Housing & Urban Development Hotline	800.669.9777
Department of Veterans Affairs	800.827.0648

## Iowa Contacts

For up-to-date disaster and recovery information visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at <a href="http://www.rio.iowa.gov">www.rio.iowa.gov</a> .	
To volunteer or make donations, contact:	
Iowa Concern Hotline	800.447.1985
If you have questions about consumer fraud, contact:	
Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division	
888.777.4590 or 515.281.5926 or	
<a href="http://www.state.ia.us/government/ag/">www.state.ia.us/government/ag/</a>	
Disaster Unemployment Information	800.JOB.IOWA
Iowa Mortgage Help	877.622.4866 or <a href="http://www.IowaMortgageHelp.com">www.IowaMortgageHelp.com</a>
Rebuild Iowa Office	866.849.0323
Iowa Other Needs Assistance	800.659.2955
Other Needs Assistance	866.434.4692